NEW YORK
JUN
13
1.30 P.M

U.S. POSTAGE THREE CENTS

B. J. Lossing, Esq.
"The Ridge"
Dover Plains
~~[illegible]~~ N.Y.

126
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378
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1638 (2 1/2)
1460
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73

Professor Morse
and Gen. Hull

See p. 17.

26 ~~[illegible]~~

Prof Morse to Gen Hubbell

Poughkeepsie July 22d. 185[illegible].

Sir

Your communication of the 29th of June is this day received. I have examined with care my reply to your first letter, to discover in it anything by which I could have given occasion to so discourteous, and acrimonious a rejoinder. As I was conscious while writing my reply to yours, of only the most respectful and kindly feeling, I am wholly at a loss to account for the tone & temper which you have manifested in addressing me, in a correspondence of your own seeking, and while I was honestly endeavoring to give you facts in answer to queries of your own proposing. Since the facts I gave you remain unchanged by anything [illegible] for continuing the correspondence, which in view of your letter, unexplained, could not be continued on my part but at the sacrifice of my own selfrespect.

Respectfully Yr Obt Servt

Saml F. B. Morse.

Gen. [illegible] Hubbell. —
Philadelphia.

Rightmyer

Prof. Morse to Gen. Hallett. 220 1/2

~~Prof. Morse~~

Pokeepsie June 12th 1854.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 3d inst is just received, and finds me much engaged with various demands on my time, so that I can scarcely find a moment to reply; yet I cannot let your communication pass without a few remarks.—

I have now for the first time read and with much interest your memorial to Congress in 1849. You will not feel offended if I give you facts, (so long as they are *facts*,) though they may be fatal to your honest supposition that "whatever has "been done towards an Ocean Telegraph has only "been a *following up of your ideas*," or that you can claim priority in the suggestion of a *Telegraph across the Atlantic*.

You will believe from the position which I hold in relation to the Telegraph that it was quite natural that the extension of my system throughout the world should occupy my thoughts with some degree of intensity from its inception, and that in view of this anticipated world wide extension, the connection of Europe and America was at least a possible if not *probable* subject of thought and speculation with me. Now this, Sir, is a subject which occupied my mind as early as the year 1842, as printed documents before Congreſs elucidate. At that period there were certain problems bearing on such a project neceſsary to be solved before an Ocean Telegraph could aſsume any thing like a practicable sha

Like the project of Aerial Navigation, as it is now agit it existed as a brilliant but impracticable, or rather unsolved conception, and ingenious minds like your own might well entertain the thought and devise ingenious modes of solving it, yet without demonstrating the means of a succeſsful Solution.

A claim for the original barren thought, how brilliant, is comparatively of little account in the eyes of the world. It is he who first combines facts, plans and means to carry out a brilliant thou to a succeſsful result, who in the judgment of the world is most likely to receive the greatest credit, while, nevertheleſs an impartial posterity will award to each one whose mind has been employed in elaborating any part of a useful project his just share of honor in bringing it to a result. Whatever may be said and proved adverse to your cla of priority, your memorial of 1849 must be noted by the historian of the Telegraph as worthy of honorable mention in its history. –

The difficulties at that early date (1842,) w were in the way of realizing such a project, were, First, Can electricity by means of a single elec motor, be propelled to a distance so great as the width of the Ocean?

This was a problem which my experiments of 1842, 1843, were intended to solve, and which was so far satisfactorily solved to my own mind, as to lead me to declare the law of propulsion, or rather the law of battery construction, in my Report of the Results of those experiments to the Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter which will be found on the files of the Department dated New York August 10th 1843. In this letter I say "The practical inference from this "law is, that a telegraphic communication on "my plan, may with certainty be established "across the Atlantic! Startling as this may "*now seem*, the *time will come when this* "*project will be realized*."

You will perceive that there is here "a "point of time earlier than yours" by five years, and as "high and solemn a record" of the project of a Telegraphic communication across *the Atlantic* in the Archives of the Treasury Department, as if recorded in the Archives of the Senate; and it bears on its face the evidence that my mind was at that time engaged in elaborating this project. But the difficulty I had overcome and thus announced to the Government was not the only one in the way for

Secondly: What is the character of the bed of the Ocean? This bed had not then been sounded, and, therefore, its character, whether suitable

ect, from its depth, its regular or irregular bottom, its
ption or not from currents, or other disturbing agents,
for the reception of a proper conductor, was not known.

This important part of the problem I conceive to have been solved by Lieutenant Maury and Lieut. Berryman, so far as it is solved.—

Third; Can a cable conductor of such a length be paid out to such a depth as is required?

This is resolved only by conjecture, and the experience of comparatively very short distances and wide channels in successful submarine crossings of rivers. The first attempt of this kind for telegraphic purposes, was made, so far as I believe, by me across the East River between Castle Garden and Governor's Island in the autumn of 1842. Long subsequent to this submarine experiment English companies have laid the conductors beneath the Irish and the English Channels. I have no doubt of the same success in crossing the Ocean.

Fourth; Is it possible to interest Government, or companies to aid in such an enterprize?

You have tried the Government for your plan, and the effort is unattended with success, on the plea that "the world was not yet prepared for the project." No action has been had, and it has laid dormant for five years.—

Means, however, are as essential to the project before it can be made of practical value, as all other parts of it. A Company formed originally for a more limited purpose, has been persuaded favorably to entertain the project of an Oceanic Telegraph first suggested by me, and a sub oceanic conductor proposed by me. This design is formally embraced in the Charter of a land Telegraph from St. John's Newfoundland to New York.

In regard to your proposal to be a Director in this Company, your request arises doubtless from a misconception of its nature. While it would truly give me pleasure to see you in that position, it does not rest with me to appoint the Officers. The Gentlemen who procured the Charter from the Government of Newfoundland, for this Company, are men of great Capital, who have been at great trouble & expense in procuring their present Charter. They have invested in the enterprize a large capital; they invited me to join them, and to invest a large sum, which has constituted me a joint owner with them and no others can now be admitted but by *unanimous* consent of the present Stockholders. Should you wish to become interested by investing your proportion of capital in the company I will cheerfully give you my vote as a Stockholder, but as you will perceive I cannot control the vote, and it must remain with the other gentlemen to decide even if you can be admitted as a Stockholder, and then a majority of the Stockholders must decide who shall be of their Board of Directors. –

I have no time to speak of the merits of your plan proposed in your memorial. I think however, that any plan of buoys for anchoring the conductor cable, is liable to several obvious objections. The buoys being on the surface of the sea, must be exposed to all the disturbing and disastrous agencies of Storms, currents, Ice, and malevolence from which a submarine cable once laid upon "Maury's Telegraph plateau" would be free.

Believe me Sir with Respect
Yr. Obt. Servt.

Saml. [illegible]

Engrave this a little lighter.

Gen. Horatio Hubbell –
Philadelphia.

See p. 83.

Telegraph. The telegraph was first brought into practical use in the United States by Professor S. F. B. Morse. He began his experiments in 1832, aided by L. D. Gale and George and Alfred Vail. In 1837 he filed a caveat in the Patent Office at Washington, and in 1840 obtained a patent covering the improvements he had made in the meantime. The first line established was between Baltimore and Washington, it being successfully operated May 27, 1844. In October, 1842, Morse had attempted to operate a line from Governor's Island to the Battery in New York, but this experiment failed. Samuel Colt, in 1843, laid a submarine cable from Coney Island and Fire Island, at the mouth of New York harbor, up to the city, and operated it successfully for a time. In 1860 it was estimated that there were over 50,000 miles of telegraph lines in operation in the United States, and at present the lines extend over 190,000 miles. In 1857 Cyrus W. Field attempted to connect Europe and America by means of an Atlantic cable. The first attempt failed, but the laying of the cable was finally accomplished August 5, 1858. (See Atlantic Cable.)

was appointed to command against the Seminoles in Florida. December, 1837, he won the battle of Okeechobee. When war with Mexico was approaching, Taylor was ordered to the disputed Texan frontier. He gained the victory of Palo Alto, May 8, 1846, Resaca de la Palma, May 9, and occupied Matamoras. He was made major-general, and stormed Monterey in September. In the following campaign General Taylor, who had been compelled to detach some of his best troops, was attacked by vastly superior forces under Santa Anna, and gained a brilliant victory at Buena Vista, February 22–23, 1847. "Old Rough and Ready" was now the national hero. The following year the Whigs nominated him as candidate for President over such competitors as Clay and Webster, and he was elected and entered on his duties in 1849. The California question complicated with the absorbing slavery topic was the chief matter in President Taylor's administration; he died before the compromise was completed.

Taylor vs. Reading, a New Jersey case, memorable because one of the earliest cases in which a court took upon itself to pronounce upon the con- legislative enactment. The Legislature of New Jersey

Autograph note to M. Declouet signed New Orleans, April 8, 1785. $10.00

Sweet
54

172

SAMUEL F. B. MORSE

Retained letter-press copies of two letters to Gen. Horatio Hubbell who claimed he originated the idea of the Atlantic cable, the first six pages dated June 12, 1854 giving an interesting account of laying the cable; and the second a one page letter July 22, 1854 declining further correspondence with Hubbell because of the General's "discourteous and acrimonious rejoinder to the first letter."

With original envelope in which both were sent to historian B. J. Lossing and note in Lossing's hand. The lot $50.00

173

COL. JOHN J. MUDD, 2nd Ill. Caval

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WOODROW WILSON

Printed pictorial broadside (1905?). 4 x 23 inches, folded.

Portrait of Wilson at top and picture of tree pruning Disston saw at bottom labelled "Tool used by Prof. Wilson in constructing the work" his book on George Washington which the broadside states: " . . . puts Professor Wilson in the front rank of American novelists."

An amusing piece. $10.00

210

WILLIAM WILLIAMS Signer

Document signed Mar. 15, 1775 mended with improper tape. $7.50

211

JUDGE LEWIS B. WOODRUFF

Collection of about 227 pieces including the signed petitions of prominent New

INTERESTING CABLE COMPANY RECORD. 1854.

MORSE, PROFESSOR S. F. B. Letter press Copy of a very interesting A. L. S. from Professor Morse to Gen. Horatio Hubbell who claimed that he had first suggested the Idea of the Submarine Telegraph......"I have now for the first time read and with much interest your Memorial to Congress in 1849. You will not feel offended if I give you facts (so long as they are facts) though they may be fatal to your honest supposition that "WHATEVER HAS BEEN DONE TOWARDS AN OCEAN TELEGRAPH HAS BEEN A FOLLOWING UP OF YOUR IDEAS", or that you can claim Priority in the suggestion of a Telegraph across the Atlantic you will believe from the position which I hold in relation to the Telegraph that it was quite natural that the extension of my system throughout the world should occupy my thoughts with some degree of intensity from its from its inception and that in view of this ANTICIPATED WORLD WIDE EXTENSION THE CONNECTION OF EUROPE AND AMERICA was at least a possible if not probable subject of thought and speculation with me. Now this Sir is a subject which occupied my mind at least as early as the year 1842 as printed documents before Congress elucidate.........A Claim for the original barren thought however brilliant is comparatively of little Account in the eyes of the World. It is he who first combines Facts, Plans and Means to carry out a brilliant thought to a successful result, who in the judgment of the World is most likely to receive the greatest Credit." etc. With numerous details as to the laying of the Cable.

Together with a Letter PresswCopy of a Letter from Mr. Morse to Gen. Hubbell declining to continue the Correspondence on account of the Generals "discourteous and acrimonious rejoinder" to his first Letter.

Pokeepsie
June12th,1854

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 3rd inst is just received, and finds me much engaged with various demands on my time so that I can scarcely find a moment to reply. Yet I cannot let your communication pass without a few remarks.

I have now for the first time read and with much interest your memorial to Congress in 1849. You will not feel offended if I give you facts,(so long as they are facts) though they may be fatal to your honest supposition that whatever has "been done towards an Ocean Telegraph has only been a following up of your ideas", or that you can claim priority in the suggestion of a Telegraph across the Atlantic.

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Believe me Sir, with respect
Samuel F. B. Morse

Gen. Haratio Hubbell
Philadelphia

Pokeepsie July 22,1854

Sir:

Your communication of the 29th of June is this day received. I have examined with care my reply to your first letter to discover in it anything by which I could have given reason to so discourteous and acrimonious a rejoinder. As I was conscious while reviewing my reply to yours of only the most respectful and kindly feeling, I am wholly at a loss to account for the one and temper which you have manifested in addressing me, in a correspondence of your own seeking, and while I was honestly endeavoring to give you facts in answer to queries of your own proposing. ----the facts I gave you remain unchanged --------------- continuing the correspondence, which in view of your letter, unexplained, could not be continued on my part but at the sacrifice of my own self respect.

Respectfully your Servant

Samuel F. B. Morse

To Mr. Hubbell
Philadelphia

FOREST H. SWEET
P. O. BOX 156 BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS
AMERICAN HISTORICAL MATERIAL

PHONE WOodward 4-9622

Dear Miss Greaves:

Here are 4 of your 6 on approval. If either Galvez or Holmes comes back from previous sending on approval, I'll send to you. I've marked my list so I won't forget.

172 is letter press copy kept by Morse & sent to Lossing. If Hubbell did not keep Morse's originals and if they are not available, then these retained copies assume a greater importance. I have not inquired whether Morse's originals are preserved — you may want to, and if so, extend the approval time.

Sincerely

FHS

10-27-54

MORSE, SAMUEL

MORSE LETTERS DATED JUNE 12, 1854 AND JULY 22, 1854 TO GEN. HORATIO HUBBELL

$10.00

172

SAMUEL F. B. MORSE

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With original envelope in which both were sent to historian B. J. Lossing and note in Lossing's hand. The lot $50.00

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23 inches, folded.

Portrait of Wilson at top and picture of tree pruning Disston saw at bottom labelled "Tool used by Prof. Wilson in constructing the work" his book on George Washington which the broadside states: ". . . puts Professor Wilson in the front rank of American novelists."

An amusing piece. $10.00

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WILLIAM WILLIAMS Signer

Document signed Mar. 15, 1775 mended with improper tape. $7.50

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Collection of about 227 pieces including the signed petitions of prominent New

Prof S.F.B. Morse
to Gen. Hubbell

BURNDY
Corporation

NORWALK, CONNECT.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

MORSE LETTER

TO

GEN. HORATIO HUBBELL

July 22, 1854.

+

June 12, 1854